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Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 11 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Gabon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As the representative of the current Chair of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith (see annex) the report of the Committee on its forty-first ministerial meeting, which was held in Libreville from 23 to 27 November 2015, together with the following documents:

- Status of implementation of the recommendations of the fortieth meeting and the list of recommendations of the thirty-ninth meeting;
- Table showing the status of contributions to the trust fund since its establishment;
- Libreville Declaration on the adoption and implementation of the regional strategy and plan of action for combating terrorism and the trafficking of small arms and light weapons in Central Africa;
- Libreville Declaration on the operationalization of the Interregional Coordination Centre for maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea;
- Libreville Declaration on combating poaching in Central Africa;
- List of participants at the meeting.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 98 (e) of the agenda of the seventieth session, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baudelaire **Ndong Ella**

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Annex to the letter dated 11 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Gabon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Report of the forty-first ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

A. Introduction

1. The forty-first ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa was held in Libreville, Gabon, from 23 to 27 November 2015.

2. The following member States participated in the meeting: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe.

3. The United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) served as the Committee secretariat. The Secretary-General of the United Nations was represented by Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA.

4. The following United Nations entities took part in the proceedings as observers: United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, United Nations Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

5. Representatives of the following organizations also participated as observers: Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) and African Union.

6. The meeting of experts opened with a ceremony that included statements by the outgoing Chair, Angola, represented by Mr. Alberto Cassonga Cabongo, Ambassador of Angola to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and by the representative of Gabon, Ms. Mireille Nzenze, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, La Francophonie and Regional Integration.

7. The opening ceremony of the ministerial meeting featured:

- A statement by the outgoing Chair of the Bureau, Mr. Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Angola;
- A statement by the Secretary General of ECCAS, Mr. Ahmad Allam-Mi;
- A statement by the representative of the African Union, General Jean-Marie Michel Mokoko;
- A message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, read out by his Special Representative for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA, Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily;
- A statement by the Gabonese Minister for Foreign Affairs, La Francophonie and Regional Integration, Mr. Issoze Ngondet.

B. Summary of proceedings

I. Adoption of the agenda

8. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

i. Adoption of the agenda;

ii. Election of the Bureau;

iii. Report of the outgoing Bureau;

iv. Status of implementation of the recommendations of the fortieth ministerial meeting;

v. Review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa;

vi. Promotion of disarmament and arms limitation programmes in Central Africa;

vii. Combating armed groups in Central Africa: the case of Boko Haram;

viii. Maritime piracy and security;

ix. Poaching in Central Africa;

x. Combating drug trafficking and transnational organized crime in Central Africa;

xi. Briefings by bodies with observer status in the Committee;

xii. Report by the secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States on institutional developments in subregional peace and security structures and mechanisms and on the development of strategic partnerships;

xiii. Consideration of the financial situation of the Committee: implementation of the Libreville Declaration by the member States;

xiv. Place and date of the next meeting;

xv. Other matters;

xvi. Adoption of the report of the forty-first ministerial meeting.

II. Election of the Bureau

9. Gabon was elected Chair of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa by acclamation.

10. The Committee also elected the following member States:

- First Vice-Chair: Central African Republic;
- Second Vice-Chair: Sao Tome and Principe;
- Rapporteur: Cameroon.

III. Report of the outgoing Bureau

11. The outgoing Chair briefed the Committee on the activities carried out since its fortieth meeting, held in Luanda, Angola, from 1 to 5 June 2015:

- Transmission of the final version of the report of the fortieth meeting of the Committee to the Secretary-General of the United Nations;
- Transmission of the final version of the report of the fortieth meeting of the Committee to all States Members of the United Nations through the ministers for foreign affairs and the permanent missions of the member countries of the Committee to the United Nations in New York;
- Reminder of all States members of the Committee, through notes verbales, of the need and importance of making their annual contribution of $10,000 to the trust fund to enable the secretariat of the Committee to undertake some of its tasks;
- Reminder of all States members of the Committee, through notes verbales, of the need to implement the recommendations of the fortieth meeting of the Committee;
- Adoption by consensus by the First Committee of the General Assembly of the resolution entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa";
- Call to and education of all States members of the Committee about the need and importance of ratifying the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention).

12. It had not been possible to undertake other scheduled activities, such as working visits to the secretariat of the Committee, the ECCAS secretariat and the Central Africa Early Warning Mechanism (MARAC), all based in Libreville.

IV. Status of implementation of the recommendations of the fortieth ministerial meeting

13. The Committee assessed the implementation of the recommendations of the fortieth ministerial meeting using the attached matrix, which also contained the recommendations of the thirty-ninth ministerial meeting (annex 1). The secretariat would work with the Chair to inform the Committee, at its next session, of the status of implementation of all the recommendations since the thirty-ninth ministerial meeting.

V. Review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa

14. The representative of the ECCAS secretariat presented a review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa, as described below.

Background

15. That review (based on information from open sources such as official reports and documents of the United Nations, the African Union, States members of the Committee and MARAC) covered four major areas:

- Political and institutional developments;
- Domestic and cross-border security;
- Issues relating to governance, the humanitarian situation and human rights;
- Country-by-country analysis.

Overview

16. Since the fortieth ministerial meeting, the political and security situation in Central Africa appeared more mixed and troubling, with an increase in political tensions and the resurgence of insecurity in various parts of the subregion. Three main points were highlighted:

(i) Alternation between periods when public institutions were functioning normally and periods when democratic processes were weakened;

(ii) Period of calm and consolidation of the peace process;

(iii) Continued insecurity and escalation in some conflict areas.

17. All of the above had taken place against a challenging international and regional backdrop, characterized by:

- Economic slowdown owing to many factors, including the decline in the price of oil and other commodities, on which the economies of the majority of States members of the Committee were heavily reliant;
- Increase in all sorts of security risks in the Central African subregion, which was virtually surrounded by those threats;
- Unprecedented global migration crisis, which in Central Africa was reflected in an increase in the number of refugees and internally displaced persons, creating a veritable humanitarian crisis.

I. Institutional and political developments

18. Most of the member States continued to face difficulties managing the peaceful and consensual democratic processes that all intra-State actors embraced and to grapple with issues that threatened their peace and stability, as the subregion entered the long election cycle running from 2015 to 2018, when some vital elections would be held.

19. All questions relating to those elections raised during the thirty-ninth meeting of the Committee remained relevant. Disagreements over the rules of the game remained palpable; the most notable of those disagreements were no longer just over post-electoral matters, but much more over pre-electoral matters.

20. The discussions on the introduction of biometrics in the election process in certain member States had also given rise to similar disagreements. Even where the

introduction of biometrics had been validated by all actors, serious disagreements remained over the form of that technology and its governing legal texts.

21. Disagreements over the revision, amendment or change of constitutions and over the third presidential term of office had also made headlines in countries such as Burundi, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda.

22. The determination and consensual arrangement of election timetables had also led to profound disagreements within the political class in those States. Special attention would continue to be paid to developments concerning the elections. An electoral crisis with strong ramifications could occur in any State member of the Committee, because certain political and military actors had often used election issues to justify and legitimize violence.

23. In addition to those election-related issues, Central Africa was also seeing an increase in political and social advocacy and protest movements. The high proportion of young people in the subregion was one factor in that increase. More than half of the population of Central Africa was aged between 17 and 20. Consequently, civil society had been playing an increasingly prominent role. In a subregion that was also characterized by inequalities and marked social division, young people were demanding, for example, a greater say in politics and a redistribution of national wealth.

24. In the light of the above, the Secretary General of ECCAS had made the following recommendations:

- To review, at each Committee meeting, the status of ratification and implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, ratified to date by less than half of the States members of the Committee but nonetheless a legally binding instrument that should serve as a compass of sorts to guide member States on matters of democracy and governance;
- To take advantage of the introduction of biometrics into electoral systems to update civil registry systems and make them biometric too, as experience in that area showed that the reliability of electoral rolls depended to a large extent on a secure civil registry system;
- To prepare and implement a subregional action plan for young people, in keeping with the African Youth Charter.

II. Domestic and cross-border security

25. The situation with regard to peace and security had remained the same as described by ECCAS in Bujumbura in December 2014. The general security situation in Central Africa continued to be mixed and to give cause for concern; certain forms of conflict, it seemed, were even becoming entrenched.

26. Nonetheless, there had been an encouraging improvement in the security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the success of military operations against the M23 armed group had laid the foundations for a lasting peace. However, military operations against other armed groups were continuing; the aim was to eliminate those groups completely. The situation with regard to maritime safety and security was also encouraging: ECCAS had continued its efforts

to protect its maritime space by implementing the resolutions adopted at the ECCAS-Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)-Commission of the Gulf of Guinea (CGG) summit on maritime safety and security in the Gulf of Guinea, held in Yaoundé in June 2013.

27. However, in some countries the situation had become even more worrying, to wit:

- The political and security crisis in the Central African Republic and Burundi;
- The spread of terrorist activity perpetrated by Boko Haram in the ECCAS region, with recurrent terrorist attacks against Chad and Cameroon. In addition, Central Africa continued to be exposed to and surrounded by a multitude of security threats, particularly from other African subregions, given its geographical position at the centre of the continent. Those threats included the following:
  - The current civil war in Libya;
  - The resumption of hostilities between armed militias in Darfur;
  - The continued civil war in South Sudan;
  - The terrorist activities of Boko Haram in Nigeria and around Lake Chad;
  - The terrorist activities of various other groups in the Sahel-Saharan strip, which was affected by the activities of Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and the Somali group Al-Shabaab, carried out as part of an international jihad;
  - Intense criminal activity in the Sahel-Saharan region.

28. With regard to terrorism, in addition to traditional forms of large-scale violence, Central Africa was currently experiencing a new type of terrorism, with Boko Haram in Chad and Cameroon and armed groups of Ugandan origin, namely the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic, also classified as terrorist groups. Not all the countries of the subregion seemed to have sufficiently come to grips with that global threat. It should be noted in that context that Cameroon and Chad, currently in the front line against Boko Haram, were acting as a kind of buffer zone for the rest of Central Africa, since the terrorists' safe havens were not far from the subregion: Somalia, Libya, Darfur, Nigeria, Mali, etc.

III. Governance, humanitarian situation and human rights

29. The situation remained the same as described at previous ministerial meetings. The promotion of and respect for human rights, the practice of good governance and improvement of the humanitarian situation remained significant challenges in Central Africa. The continuing efforts of the States members of the Committee in that regard did not seem to be sufficient.

30. Prisons in Central Africa continued to be overcrowded and faced serious health and sanitation problems, which might explain the high number of escapes or attempted escapes during the period under review.

31. Human rights violations were most prevalent in conflict areas. Rape, for example, had been used as a weapon of war. Paradoxically, the defence and security forces had sometimes been involved in human rights violations.

32. The humanitarian situation also remained worrying, mainly because of armed groups that did not respect international humanitarian law. The affected States members of the Committee and humanitarian organizations also had serious difficulty meeting the needs of the many refugees and internally displaced persons in Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Chad.

Angola

33. Since the last meeting, Angola had been engaged in consolidating the peace and stability that it had been experiencing since the end of the civil war in 2002.

34. On the political front, despite the economic difficulties caused by the drop in oil prices and its impact on socioeconomic life, the authorities had continued to modernize State operations in accordance with the National Development Plan for the period up to 2017, which focused on poverty reduction.

35. Angola had also maintained its strong presence on the diplomatic stage, buoyed by its status as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and current Chairman of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. In that regard, it had put forward many initiatives in an effort to resolve the crises in the Great Lakes and had hosted an international conference on maritime security from 7 to 9 October 2015.

36. Election fever was already taking hold in the various political camps ahead of the general and presidential elections scheduled for August 2017. The municipal elections, initially scheduled for 2015 but postponed to a later date, might be held before then.

37. With regard to domestic and cross-border security, the authorities were making efforts to normalize public life and consolidate peace. In that connection, the campaign for demining and the collection of weapons still held by the civilian population had continued.

38. The security and crime situation in the cities, particularly Luanda, was generally stable, even though there were still a few isolated incidents that needed to be dealt with appropriately and required a response by the police and judicial authorities so as to maintain law and order and public peace.

39. Lastly, Angola had continued to face heavy migratory pressure from neighbouring countries despite the strict measures that were already in place: expulsions, removals, prosecutions, border monitoring, and so on.

Burundi

40. Since the last ministerial meeting, a number of concerns that regional and international observers had been expressing with regard to political and security-related developments in Burundi since 2014 had almost been borne out in 2015.

41. It should be remembered that Burundi was in a post-conflict situation following a long civil war that had lasted from 1993 to 2005 and had resulted in more than 300,000 deaths.

42. Those concerns were now being borne out by incidents of violence, as part of a political and security crisis that was in danger of turning into a confrontation between the radical opposition and the Government and that could have serious economic, social and humanitarian repercussions.

Political issues

43. The current political crisis in Burundi revolved around two issues:

- The interpretation of the 2000 Arusha Agreement and of the Constitution that had followed the Agreement, particularly with regard to presidential term limits; and
- The divergent views and disagreements between national political actors with regard to the legality and legitimacy of the third term of the current President of the Republic.

44. The political class in Burundi had remained profoundly divided on those issues, including within the presidential majority. There had been a number of defections and resignations of civilian and military figures. The atmosphere had become particularly tense in a number of neighbourhoods in the country's capital, leading the international community to press for a frank and genuinely inclusive national dialogue.

45. Municipal, legislative and presidential elections had nonetheless been organized. However, they had been boycotted by the radical opposition parties and some sections of civil society opposed to the Government. Furthermore, the European Union, the African Union and some regional economic communities had refused to send observers.

46. The incumbent party and the outgoing President of the Republic had won the elections in a landslide.

47. Despite the change of heart by one of the opposition leaders, Mr. Agathon Rwasa, who had eventually accepted a seat in Parliament, and the various mediation efforts by the United Nations, the African Union and the East African Community, the political situation had not improved significantly.

48. The formation of a national unity government, which had been fiercely contested by the radical opposition, many of whose members were living in exile, had not been sufficient to defuse the tensions.

Domestic and cross-border security

49. With regard to security, many of the perpetrators of the failed coup d'état staged prior to the presidential election had fled the country.

50. Grenade attacks and acts of armed violence against the police and the civilian population were being carried out in some parts of the capital. For instance, a police station in Bujumbura had been attacked in broad daylight.

51. There had also been other instances of clashes and violence during the reporting period. The death toll had reached nearly 200 since the beginning of the crisis, in addition to the almost 200,000 refugees in Tanzania, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda.

52. The crisis had also had economic consequences, as the various sanctions imposed by major powers had sent Burundi into an economic slump, putting the Government at risk of being unable to cover its expenditures.

53. That development was likely to increase the risk of violent conflict in Burundi, a small country with the second-highest population density in Africa after Rwanda.

Targeted killings

54. Since the attempted coup d'état of 13 May 2015, Burundi had entered another cycle of violence characterized by targeted killings.

55. The assassination of Colonel Jean Bikomagu, just two weeks after the killing of General Adolphe Nashimirimana, an ally of President Nkurunziza, an act that exacerbated the feelings of anxiety and distrust, had poisoned the security environment in Burundi.

56. The following individuals had also been killed or been the victims of assassination attempts:

- Zedi Feruzi, President of the Union pour la paix et le développement-Zigamibanga (UPD-Zigamibanga);
- A local leader of the incumbent party, the Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie-Forces pour la défense de la démocratie, who was brutally murdered;
- Major General Prime Niyongabo, the current chief of general staff of the Burundian army, and Pierre Claver Mbonimpa, a human rights advocate, both victims of assassination attempts.

57. There had been other instances of violence:

- An attack on a military station in Bujumbura Rural, resulting in deaths on both sides;
- Multiple grenade attacks in the capital;
- Repeated clashes between the police and "armed criminals".

Such violence was perhaps a troubling sign.

58. It should be recalled that coups d'état and, in particular, political assassinations, had been part of the political history of Burundi since independence. Prominent examples included the assassinations of Prince Rwagasore in 1961, Prime Minister Pierre Ngendandumwe in 1965 and the Hutu massacres in 1972.

59. Also worthy of mention were the assassinations of Presidents Ndadaye and Ntaryamira, of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, and of other high-ranking officials, which had sparked a civil war that had caused more than 300,000 deaths between 1993 and 2005.

60. That history was particularly relevant given that Burundi was a country where feelings of resentment among politicians ran deep, something which the Arusha Agreement had not fully eliminated.

61. The Burundian political system set up under the Arusha Agreement and the Constitution, which was based on the representation of all components of the nation, was thus at risk of being undermined.

62. In conclusion, Burundi deserved considerable support from the Committee and all partners to push forward with the inter-Burundian dialogue process which the Government had already been set in motion.

Cameroon

63. Since the last ministerial meeting, the situation in Cameroon had remained stable. On the political front, the absence of elections until 2018 and the war against Boko Haram had somewhat overshadowed domestic activities.

64. However, noteworthy events during the reporting period had included the revision of the electoral rolls, the appointment of a new Director General of Elections following disagreements between his predecessor and the Chairperson of the Board of Elections Cameroon which had provoked a crisis within the organization responsible for organizing elections in Cameroon, and the cabinet reshuffle of 2 October 2015.

65. With regard to governance, the authorities were also pursuing the public morality campaign commonly referred to by the press as "Operation Sparrowhawk."

66. The security situation remained a matter of concern but was under control. In recent months, Boko Haram had caused the death of over 100 people and injured more than 400 others in a number of suicide bombings and roughly 60 attacks. The Cameroonian Government had taken the appropriate measures.

67. In the face of that threat to the country's stability, observers noted with satisfaction the army's patriotic commitment and the people's solidarity, with all social actors in the country working in unison against a common enemy, a rare occurrence in Africa, where external threats had traditionally been a source of division among domestic actors.

68. However, the war against Boko Haram and the insecurity in the Central African Republic had had a range of serious consequences in Cameroon.

69. The humanitarian situation, for example, was deeply troubling, with at least 400,000 refugees from the Central African Republic and Nigeria seeking protection in Cameroon.

70. The peaceful demonstration by Cameroonian soldiers on their return from the Central African Republic, an unprecedented event in the history of the Cameroonian army, had taken place at a time when morale and cohesion among troops were more necessary than ever.

71. In addition to those developments, many acts of organized crime, urban crime and ritual killings had occurred during the reporting period.

Central African Republic

72. The situation with regard to the political and peace process in the Central African Republic since the last ministerial meeting was cause for both hope and concern.

73. Many domestic and international initiatives had been undertaken in the face of the looming stalemate in the conflict, with ECCAS taking the lead.

74. The national reconciliation process had continued; grassroots consultations had been organized in all 16 prefectures in the Central African Republic; and the National Reconciliation Forum had been held in Bangui from 27 April to 4 May 2015. Despite the success of those initiatives from an organizational perspective, vigilance was required throughout the subsequent stages of the process.

75. Further efforts were needed to make up for the delay in the preparation of the elections and to ensure that adequate funds were available for the elections to be held by the end of 2015, in line with the timetable established at the sixteenth session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of ECCAS, held in N'Djamena on 25 May 2015.

76. To enable the electoral process to move forward, the Transitional Government had established a strategic monitoring committee, comprising members of the Government, the National Elections Authority (ANE), representatives of other institutions of the Transition and representatives of the international community belonging to the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic (G8-CAR), to support ANE. Progress had been made with the adoption of a timetable issued by ANE establishing 13 December 2015 as the date for the constitutional referendum and 27 December 2015 and 13 January 2016 as the dates for the first and second rounds of the presidential and legislative elections, respectively. In line with the electoral code, the various stages of the process were under way, namely:

- Adoption of the draft Constitution to be put to a referendum;
- Closure of voter registration, including in refugee sites in Cameroon, the Republic of the Congo and Chad, in accordance with the tripartite agreements concluded with those friendly countries and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);
- Posting of electoral rolls;
- Roll-out of electoral materials throughout the country;
- Opening of electoral bidding and candidate registration for the presidential and legislative elections.

77. Efforts to ensure the success of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process would be particularly vital, given that the process had failed several times in the past in the country. A solution must also be found to the marginalization and exclusion of various groups and political and military factions from the electoral process in order to make it fully inclusive. Given the predominantly political nature of that process, strong political solutions that would reassure all parties were required.

78. Immediate steps should also be taken to prepare future elected leaders to avoid exclusive and triumphalist behaviour and encourage them instead to pursue dialogue

with all actors, with a view to gradually rebuilding the State and nation of the Central African Republic.

Attempt to explain the resurgence of tensions and recent violence in Bangui, Bambari and Sibut

79. The resurgence of tensions, violence and clashes in the Central African Republic had been sparked by the grassroots consultation forum, which had made the following two earth-shattering recommendations:

- To ending impunity; and
- To ensure that presidential and legislative elections were held within the agreed time frame.

80. However, the political and military actors and their leaders had been hoping that amnesty legislation would be enacted and that the cabinet would be reshuffled so that they could be given cabinet positions, as had been the customary practice following each reconciliation forum. With that in mind, on the eve of the seventieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, a coalition of those political and military leaders had instigated violence in order to:

- demand the departure of the Head of State of the Transition and call for a new transition in which they could be part of a new government;
- enact amnesty legislation and evade justice.

81. Lastly, tensions persisted because there was a power struggle within that political and military movement, with individuals vying to emerge as the undisputed leader who could become a member of the Government, in the event of a new transition.

Republic of the Congo

82. Since the last ministerial meeting, one of the geopolitical and security highlights in the Republic of the Congo had been a debate over whether or not to amend the Constitution of 20 January 2002.

83. That debate, in turn, had led to:

- Public consultations launched by the President of the Republic, held from 20 May to 7 June 2015;
- The Sibiti (Lékoumou Department) national dialogue, convened by the President of the Republic, held from 13 to 17 July 2015;
- The alternative dialogue organized by an opposition party, held in Brazzaville from 27 to 29 July 2015;
- The holding of a constitutional referendum on 25 October 2015;
- The promulgation of the new Constitution by the President of the Republic, on 6 November 2015.

84. Since sport was considered a vehicle for peace and unity among peoples, another highlight was the successful holding of the eleventh African Games in

Brazzaville, from 4 to 19 September 2015, which coincided with the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Games.

85. The situation in the Republic of the Congo could be described as follows:

Political situation

- **Constitutional debate**

86. The debate had given rise to two dialogues: the Sibiti dialogue, held from 13 to 17 July 2015, which had brought together the majority parties, the centre parties and a segment of the opposition and civil society, all advocates of institutional change; and the alternative dialogue, held in Brazzaville from 27 to 29 July 2015 by the radical opposition wing, which supported maintaining the Constitution of 20 January 2002.

87. The conclusions of both forums had been submitted to the President of the Republic for consideration. In response, the President had decided to consult the nation through a referendum, held on 25 October 2015, in order to settle the matter.

88. In preparation for that referendum on the country's institutional future, a nationwide operation to revise the electoral lists had taken place from 29 September to 3 October 2015.

89. On 5 October 2015, the Council of Ministers had adopted an amended draft of the new Constitution, which had been submitted to the electorate via a referendum.

90. On Tuesday, 20 October 2015, clashes had broken out between police and demonstrators opposed to the amendment to the Constitution, resulting in four deaths and some injuries.

91. Following those incidents, the radical opposition groups had cancelled the demonstration scheduled for 23 October 2015 and had called for civil disobedience.

92. Despite those regrettable events, the referendum had taken place on 25 October 2015 peacefully throughout the country. The Constitutional Court had published the final results on 5 November 2015, in Brazzaville. The draft Constitution had been approved by 94.32 per cent of the votes, with a voter turnout of 71.16 per cent.

93. The new Constitution had been promulgated by the President of the Republic on 6 November 2015, the date of its entry into force.

- **Mediation in the Central African Republic**

94. His Excellency Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of the Congo and international mediator for the crisis in the Central African Republic, was tirelessly pursuing his mission to support the transition until its conclusion.

95. In the context of the elections to be held in the Central African Republic, it should be noted that a tripartite agreement (Republic of the Congo-Central African Republic-Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) had been signed in Brazzaville on 29 September 2015, to allow refugees from the Central African Republic living in the Republic of the Congo to participate in the various elections.

Security

96. The security situation was calm. The defence and security services had taken action to enable the country and its population to rediscover the calm which had been disrupted during the pre-referendum period.

- **Borders**

97. With regard to borders, the Republic of the Congo was continuing to implement the protocol for common border management, which would ultimately help to achieve the goals of the African Union Border Programme, which had been replicated by ECCAS and which had a deadline of 2017.

98. Several initiatives had been undertaken in that regard with neighbouring countries (namely, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon and Angola) since the Committee's last meeting.

Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo

99. On 24 and 25 September 2015, during the fifth session of the ad hoc defence and security committee between the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, pursuant to the provisions of the protocol establishing the joint technical border committee (signed on 26 September 2014 in Kinshasa), both Governments had reiterated the recommendation for perpetual neutrality to be extended to all border islands (as established for Mbamou island), in accordance with the declaration of 23 December 1908. They had also decided to demilitarize those islands by no later than 25 December 2015. A joint mission to monitor implementation of that recommendation would take place on 25 January 2016.

100. Furthermore, the ad hoc defence and security committee had decided to implement, beginning on 25 September 2015, the agreement on the movement and establishment of persons and goods, signed on 3 June 2014 in Kinshasa.

Republic of the Congo and Gabon

101. In accordance with the conclusions of the ad hoc committee meeting held from 26 to 28 March 2014 in Libreville, the first meeting of the Congo-Gabon joint technical committee of experts on border demarcation had taken place on 16 and 17 October 2015, in Ouesso (Sangha Department), in the Republic of the Congo.

102. That meeting had enabled both parties to agree on a timetable and funding for joint field missions, and also on the financial cost of mapping operations.

Republic of the Congo and Angola

103. In accordance with the conclusions of the seventh session of the Republic of the Congo-Angola Joint Commission, held from 26 to 30 March 2015 in Luanda, Angola, the operation to verify the land and river borders between both countries, launched on 17 June 2015 in Cabinda, had taken place from 19 June to 1 July 2015.

104. It should be noted that continuation of the verification operation would depend on the holding of an evaluation meeting by the common border verification subcommittee.

• **Humanitarian action**

105. Following the crisis in the Central African Republic, thousands of citizens of that fraternal country had taken refuge in the Republic of the Congo, including in Likouala Department, where there were still almost 20,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. That figure was all the more alarming because it greatly exceeded the ratio established by the United Nations on the topic.

106. The Governments of the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo had agreed on the possible resumption of an awareness-raising campaign for the repatriation of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo living in the Republic of the Congo.

107. Furthermore, in September 2015, over 200 Angolan refugees had permanently returned to their country of origin.

108. Pending an update of statistics from the census that was under way, the number of refugees living in the Republic of the Congo had been estimated at 63,737 as at 31 May 2015.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Political situation

109. The political highlight in the Democratic Republic of the Congo had been the convening of a national dialogue involving all of the country's social actors, in order to defuse the political situation and to ensure peace and national cohesion for calm and credible elections.

110. Following the recommendations of the national dialogue, the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) would be able to publish a realistic overall electoral timetable. As regards the decentralization process initiated to bring government closer to the people, 21 new provinces had been established, with special commissioners appointed to manage them until provincial elections were held to elect governors.

111. The cabinet reshuffle that had occurred was the logical consequence of defections by some figures from the presidential majority, especially as the ministerial posts concerned had been reserved for the presidential majority. Those defections had also been behind the resignation of some members of CENI, except for its President, who had resigned because of poor health.

Security situation

112. In the area of security, given the military successes achieved by the Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC) on the ground against the 23 March Movement (M23), the Democratic Republic of the Congo had called for the implementation of the commitments made as part of the strategic dialogue aimed at substantially and gradually reducing the staff of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) to the traditional size of a special intervention brigade, to match realities on the ground.

113. It should be recalled that the main purpose of MONUSCO was to support the country in its peacebuilding and development efforts; a very large presence of MONUSCO troops on the ground was no longer justified.

114. Pursuant to the resolutions adopted at a meeting of defence ministers of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), held in Kinshasa on 18 November 2015, a plan for the repatriation of former M23 combatants was endorsed by a working committee that comprised members of MONUSCO, FARDC, the Executive Secretariat of ICGLR and the monitoring mechanism committee. The plan would be implemented from 1 to 15 December 2015.

Gabon

115. Since the last ministerial meeting, Gabon had been peaceful and stable.

116. On the political front, the run-up to the 2016 presidential and legislative elections had led to an increase in the activities of the political parties. The Government had introduced measures to reduce social and political tensions ahead of the elections, including the reinstatement of the Union nationale party and the reactivation of the Conseil national de la démocratie. The Government had also kept its promise to raise the salaries of civil servants.

117. It had also pursued its dialogue with opposition leaders and continued to implement biometric voter registration.

118. The Government was continuing to diversify the economy in order to mitigate the adverse impacts of the drastic fall in the price of a barrel of oil. With respect to security, the authorities had managed to significantly curb the rise in organized crime.

119. Lastly, with regard to diplomacy, Gabon was pleased have hosted the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of ECCAS, at the same time as the forty-first session of the Committee, in Libreville, in order to continue supporting that organization's multifaceted efforts to ensure lasting peace and restore political and institutional stability in the Central African Republic.

Equatorial Guinea

120. Since the last ministerial meeting, Equatorial Guinea had been peaceful, secure and stable.

121. The major political event was the debate on the 2016 presidential elections. The ruling Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea had used its extraordinary congress, held from 10 to 12 November 2015, in Bata, to prepare for those elections.

122. Equatorial Guinea had continued to play an active role in subregional security operations and had made considerable progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, in accordance with its Horizon 2020 national development plan.

Rwanda

123. Since the last ministerial meeting, Rwanda had been peaceful and stable.

124. The major political event had been the process to amend the Constitution, including the deletion of the article limiting the President to two terms in office. That process had begun following petitions from more than 4 million voters, representing 57 per cent of the country's population of over 7 million.

125. The process had been reviewed by the two chambers of parliament and a draft amended Constitution had been adopted at the end of the review. However, the process had been criticized by some of the country's bilateral partners.

126. The new draft Constitution must be put to a referendum before it could enter into force.

127. Another major event had been an international case concerning the arrest warrants issued by Spain for 40 senior officers from Rwanda. In November 2015, all those arrest warrants had been dismissed by Spanish courts and INTERPOL had notified its 190 member States accordingly.

128. Rwanda had further demonstrated its international credibility through its readmission to ECCAS at its sixteenth Summit of Heads of State and Government and its successful hosting of the eighty-fourth session of the INTERPOL General Assembly in Kigali.

129. However, observers had remained concerned about tensions and diplomatic incidents between Rwanda and Burundi, which fortunately had not escalated.

Sao Tome and Principe

130. Since the last ministerial meeting, Sao Tome and Principe — an archipelago in the heart of the Gulf of Guinea whose insularity was both an asset and a potential risk — had remained peaceful and stable.

131. On the political front, the focus had been on the run-up to the 2016 presidential elections. Independent Democratic Action — the party in power, which had gained an absolute majority in parliament for the first time since the establishment of a multi-party system in the country — would certainly want one of its members to be elected in place of the current Head of State, who might seek a second term.

132. It seemed that the current Prime Minister, Patrice Trovoada, did not wish to run, based on his following statement: "In our country, the President plays a mediating role. My job is more important in bringing about change, and I will only stop doing my job if I find someone within the Independent Democratic Action party who is capable of taking over. Next year, I will be 54 years old. I still have time; we would then have our hands free to govern".

133. With regard to internal security, there had been isolated but repeated cases of criminality and banditry in some cities, including Sao Tome.

134. Lastly, Sao Tome and Principe must be more vigilant in order to combat the resurgence of piracy and maritime banditry in the Gulf of Guinea during the period under review.

Chad

135. Chad had remained generally stable since the last ministerial meeting.

136. On the political front, the dialogue between the presidential majority, the opposition and civil society had continued, in accordance with the political agreement.

137. In preparation for the 2016 legislative and presidential elections, the electoral census had been conducted, with biometrics being used for the first time. However, some members of the opposition had criticized the way in which it had been conducted.

138. With regard to governance, the Government had taken austerity measures in light of the fall in the price of oil, on which the national economy was heavily dependent.

139. With regard to security, Chad had remained engaged in and focused on combating terrorism, including the Boko Haram terrorist group. It had therefore been concerned about developments in neighbouring countries, such as terrorist movements in the Sahel, attacks in the Niger, instability in Libya, resumption of hostilities in Darfur, the Boko Haram threat to the security of supply routes, the stalemate in the crisis in the Central African Republic, and terrorism in Nigeria and Cameroon.

140. Such developments had led Chad to take military action in Cameroon, the Niger and Nigeria in order to combat terrorism. It had suffered terrorist attacks on its own soil, leaving dozens dead and many injured.

141. Several steps had been taken to stem that scourge, including the adoption of a new law on combating terrorism in June 2015, which had then been enacted and enforced; the declaration of a state of emergency in the Lake Chad region; and the allocation of financial resources for development in the region.

VI. Promotion of disarmament and arms limitation programmes in Central Africa

Implementation of the Sao Tome Initiative

Status of ratification of the Kinshasa Convention

142. The representative of the ECCAS secretariat reported that only five States (Cameroon, Gabon, Central African Republic, Congo and Chad) had ratified the Kinshasa Convention, even though all States members of the Committee had signed it. The representative of Angola noted that his country had ratified the Convention, which should enable its entry into force. It was clarified that the United Nations Secretary-General had not yet received the instrument of ratification. It was also clarified that the Kinshasa Convention was consistent with the Nairobi Protocol. In that regard, the ECCAS secretariat would soon submit a formal communication to the member States concerned to encourage them to ratify the Convention.

143. It was noted that the ECCAS secretariat provided support to member States that had not done yet so to establish their national commissions on small arms and light weapons. Five pilot countries were to receive that support. Guidance was provided to experts from member States to ensure that the national commissions met the relevant international standards. Meetings had already been held in Cameroon, the Congo and Gabon. Financial constraints had so far prevented meetings from being held in Chad and the Central African Republic.

144. The Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa said that, in order to facilitate the ratification process and ensure rapid implementation, the Centre had worked with and received financial support from ECCAS to develop a guide on harmonizing the national laws of States parties to the Kinshasa Convention on small arms and light weapons. An initial draft of the guide had been submitted to the ECCAS secretariat in May 2015. The final version would also take into account the legal obligations of States under other international, regional and subregional instruments, such as the Arms Trade Treaty, the Nairobi Protocol and the Southern African Development Community Protocol.

Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Defence and Security Forces in Central Africa

145. The representative of the ECCAS secretariat noted that the dissemination of the Code of Conduct to certain defence and security forces that already had their own codes of conduct was problematic, and that the ECCAS secretariat was preparing a white paper on private security companies, which should be finalized in 2016.

Implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty

146. The representative of the ECCAS secretariat said that the Arms Trade Treaty had entered into force on 24 December 2014, following the submission of the fiftieth instrument of ratification to the United Nations Secretary-General. The first conference of States parties had taken place from 24 to 27 August 2015, in Mexico. All States members of the Committee had signed the Treaty, with the exception of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Equatorial Guinea. Only Chad had ratified it. The representative of the Central African Republic clarified that his country had recently ratified the Treaty.

147. The Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa noted that, before 24 December 2015, each State party should submit to the secretariat an initial report on the measures undertaken to implement the Treaty, including national laws, national control lists and other internal regulations and administrative measures. Each State party must submit to the secretariat before 31 May 2015 its initial annual report on exports and imports of conventional arms covered under article 2 (1) authorized or carried out in the previous calendar year.

Presentation by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

148. The Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa gave a presentation on the following points:

Small arms and light weapons

149. The illicit trade in and proliferation of small arms and light weapons continued to have a negative impact on several countries in Central Africa, which faced challenges in handling and finding lasting solutions to the problem. In several parts of the subregion, the persistent diversion of weapons and their ammunition remained a major issue.

150. States members of the Committee had submitted national reports, at varying intervals, as part of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Many States had submitted their initial reports in 2002. Others had done so between 2005 and 2006.

151. The rate of submission of reports had fallen since then. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa urged all States members of the Committee to issue reports in order to provide information on the efforts undertaken to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and also on the progress achieved. That would also help to identify weaknesses and gaps in the updating of national legislation so that appropriate assistance could be provided where necessary.

152. Weapons identification and tracing remained a fundamental pillar in the effort to control small arms and light weapons, since they enabled States to identify trends and trafficking points and also to investigate crimes and abuses. States members of the Committee had taken steps to implement the International Tracing Instrument, including by acquiring weapons marking machines; implementing the process for marking weapons in State and civilian possession; using digital and nominal control systems to identify and register all weapons used by security and law enforcement officers; and developing databases on small arms and light weapons.

153. A training course for States members of ECCAS on identifying and tracing small arms and light weapons organized by the African Union Commission, in cooperation with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and experts from Conflict Arms Research, was held from 27 to 28 October 2015, in Addis Ababa. The training course consisted of theoretical and practical modules, which included an introduction to the basic principles and a methodology for the identification, registration and tracing of illicit weapons and ammunition, and the identification of equipment and preparation of official search requests. Participants were trained to correctly identify different small arms and light weapons and ammunition, including by calibre, type, model, manufacturer, unique serial number and previous ownership.

154. In order to be able to provide the specific assistance needed by each country, a preliminary draft survey and field study were drawn up with a view to collecting relevant information on small arms and light weapons, armed conflicts and crimes and violence, so that recommendations could be made for each country. The draft focused on six Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal) and on three ECCAS countries from the neighbouring region (Cameroon, Central African Republic and Chad). In view of the security situation in the Central African Republic, the survey could not be completed.

Security and control of arms trafficking at sea

155. At its thirty-ninth ministerial meeting, the Committee had called on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa to organize a technical meeting on security and control of arms trafficking at sea. In response to that call, the Centre had begun to research the link between the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, from the perspective of disarmament and arms control, including identifying the current legal framework. The Centre had developed a project on maritime security, linking it to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and weapons of mass destruction. To give the

project greater visibility, a technical meeting would be held on the margins of the maritime security summit to be organized jointly by the African Union and Togo in Lomé from 19 to 23 March 2016.

Weapons of mass destruction

156. To date, seven States from the subregion had submitted an initial report to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), in accordance with paragraph 4 of that resolution. The Office for Disarmament Affairs, including through the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, was available to assist States members in preparing their national implementation plans and in organizing country visits for Committee members and experts.

157. On 30 October 2015, the Centre participated in a meeting of member States in Africa on the universalization of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (Biological Weapons Convention), organized by the African Union, in cooperation with the Implementation Support Unit of the Biological Weapons Convention based in Geneva. The purpose of the meeting was to improve understanding of the Convention and its implementation among signatories and non-signatories in order to promote its universality. The meeting addressed a number of related topics, including ratification and accession procedures, national legislative enforcement and administrative measures, confidence-building measures, scientific and technological progress, the convergence between chemistry and biology and the implications for the Convention, and synergies between the Convention and Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

158. The Centre made its expertise and resources available to States members of the Committee and, as part of its mandate, provided technical and legal assistance to African States, upon request, in order to:

- Increase the rate of submission of annual national reports on the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures, and Security Council resolution 1540 (2004);
- Support the member States in signing, acceding to, ratifying and implementing the Arms Trade Treaty;
- Revise and implement laws on small arms and light weapons;
- Build the capacity of Governments in small arms- and light weapons-related issues, including weapons stockpile management, registration, and the functioning of national commissions on small arms and light weapons;
- Build the capacity of Governments in disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation, including weapons of mass destruction, and support them in implementing treaties and other regional and international instruments.

Implementation of the road map for counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa

159. The regional coordinator of the United Nations strategy to combat terrorism and the proliferation of arms in Central Africa noted that the road map for counter-

terrorism and non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa had been drawn up and adopted in December 2012, on the margins of the thirty-fifth ministerial meeting of the Committee, in accordance with the guidelines of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy of 2006. With a view to building specific and appropriate subregional capacities via thematic workshops, the implementation process had been completed in the past six months with a workshop on criminal justice responses to terrorism, held from 29 September to 2 October 2015, in Libreville.

160. At the workshop, experts from States members of ECCAS had adopted the regional strategy and action plan to combat terrorism and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Central Africa. The strategy, which had been widely shared with the member States, consisted of four pillars: (i) prevention; (ii) protection; (iii) prosecution; and (iv) response. It was clarified that the strategy incorporated all appropriate instruments, including the Kinshasa Convention. The Committee had endorsed the strategy and its action plan. The regional coordinator had announced that the strategy would be launched in Yaoundé at the start of 2016.

Recommendations:

161. The Committee invited all States that had not yet ratified the Kinshasa Convention to do so as soon as possible, so that it could enter into force. The Committee indicated that only one member State's ratification was needed for the Convention to enter into force.

162. While recalling that only two member States were States parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, the Committee invited member States to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible.

VII. Combating armed groups in Central Africa: the case of Boko Haram

163. The delegations of Cameroon and Chad shared their experiences in combating Boko Haram.

164. The representative of Cameroon said that various actions had been undertaken to overcome the attacks by Boko Haram, including the implementation of the emergency plan for northern Cameroon — which sought to create conditions conducive to the development of the regions concerned in order to prevent the extremism that could result from enforced idleness among young people, who were the priority targets of terrorist recruiters — and the vigilance and security-strengthening measures that had been put in place following the suicide attacks in Fotokol and Maroua.

165. At the bilateral level, Cameroon and Nigeria had established a cross-border bilateral committee on combating insecurity, which evaluated the security situation between the two countries and proposed solutions.

166. Cameroon was also receiving multifaceted support from the United States, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, China and other friendly countries.

167. At the subregional level, the Lake Chad Basin Commission had revived the tripartite force it had established in 1998. The ministers of defence, chiefs of defence staff and heads of intelligence services of the States members of the Lake

Chad Basin Commission and Benin had met twice (in Niamey and Abuja) to operationalize the Commission's Multinational Joint Task Force.

168. It had been agreed that each country would position a battalion of 700 troops on its border with Nigeria. The operations of the battalions were to be strictly confined to their national territory. An intelligence fusion unit had also been created to share information between the countries.

169. As part of the Multinational Joint Task Force operationalization process, the foreign affairs and defence ministers of the Lake Chad Basin Commission member States and Benin had met in Abuja to draft a resolution to be submitted to the African Union Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Security Council to create a legal framework for the operation of the Task Force.

170. Following an unsuccessful attempt to have the draft resolution adopted when Chad served as President of the Security Council in December 2014, the Lake Chad Basin Commission States had added the issue to the agenda of the Peace and Security Council for the 24th Summit of the African Union, which had asked the States concerned to draw up a concept of operations for the Multinational Joint Task Force.

171. At the conclusion of the Summit, the African Union had been requested to bring the matter before the United Nations Security Council as soon as possible in order to accelerate the implementation of the Task Force, which was expected to mobilize around 8,700 military, police and civilian personnel. The Task Force was based in N'Djamena and led by Nigerian General Illya Abba, with Cameroonian General Valère Nka as his second-in-command.

172. The creation of a special fund had also been recommended. It had been agreed that an amount of 50 billion CFA francs would be provided through the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX) mutual assistance mechanism in order to actively support Cameroon and Chad by helping to finance their efforts to eradicate Boko Haram.

173. ECCAS and ECOWAS had also been encouraged to engage in more dynamic cooperation and to hold a joint summit. The summit had initially been scheduled to take place in Malabo in early April 2015 but had been postponed.

174. While the Security Council had not adopted a resolution on combating Boko Haram, owing to reluctance on the part of Nigeria, the States participating in the Multinational Joint Task Force had been able to obtain a presidential statement in support of the efforts of States combating Boko Haram on 28 July 2015.

175. Cameroon and Chad had formed a coalition to combat Boko Haram in response to the growing strength of the movement. In addition to Chad, which had already deployed troops to its borders with Cameroon, the Niger and Nigeria, Cameroon and the Niger also had troops on the ground to bolster Nigerian efforts to counter Boko Haram.

176. At the international level, Cameroon was proud to have ensured the inclusion of Boko Haram in the list of terrorist organizations and to have obtained the endorsement of the African Union, as reflected in the draft resolution on Boko Haram submitted by that organization to the Security Council.

177. Deeply concerned about the impact of the attacks committed by that sect on the lives and well-being of the people of Cameroon and its neighbouring countries,

in early 2015 the United Nations had appointed Mr. Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, from Gabon, as Coordinator of the United Nations Headquarters response to the Boko Haram crisis, at the level of Assistant Secretary-General. He had held that post until his appointment as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic in August 2015.

178. The representative of Cameroon also noted that on 1 April 2015 the United Nations Human Rights Council, at the initiative of Cameroon, had adopted a resolution condemning the atrocities committed by Boko Haram and urged the entire international community to support the efforts of the Lake Chad Basin Commission States.

179. Cameroon noted that Boko Haram was a unique adversary in that it was not easily identifiable; efforts to defeat it would therefore require a multidimensional, coordinated approach that would address political, security, socioeconomic and other concerns.

180. In addition to strengthening State measures to stimulate long-term development in the affected regions and create favourable conditions for growth and the prevention of terrorist recruitment, other complementary actions were recommended in order to contain the nebulous terrorist network. The transnational nature of the threat called for similar action to be taken in Nigeria, the birthplace of the sect, and in all the other affected countries; otherwise, Cameroonian efforts would be in vain. Given the field of operation of Boko Haram (which was more firmly established in Nigeria), the efforts of Cameroon would be futile unless the other States members of the Lake Chad Basin Commission planned to follow suit.

181. The representative of Cameroon said that, in order to achieve a medium- and/or long-term victory over Boko Haram, stronger action would also be taken at the national level, including the following:

- The free movement agreement between Cameroon and Nigeria would be amended to restrict the movement of persons between the two countries, as announced by President Buhari during his visit to Cameroon. In addition to enhancing security along the Cameroon-Nigeria border, that change would help to improve the control of cross-border flows and the screening of persons crossing the border.
- Given the change in the sect's modus operandi, which had for some time involved suicide attacks by young men and women, the activities of Koranic schools would be regulated. Such action was vital in order to prevent those schools from becoming fertile ground for the indoctrination of young people.
- The Cameroonian intelligence services would infiltrate the local branch of the terrorist group to obtain valuable information that would facilitate the destruction of the network.
- Remote bomb detectors would be purchased.
- Vigilance would be increased in towns and cities and the use of incentives would be considered to facilitate cooperation with locals and to entice them to participate more in the fight against Boko Haram.

- Advocacy at the international level would be continued with a view to obtaining increased assistance from the international community in support of the efforts of the Lake Chad Basin Commission countries to combat Boko Haram.

182. Cameroon and the other countries suffering at the hands of Boko Haram expected the international community to provide financial and material support for the war effort; capacity-building for border control and military action against terrorist groups; support for development projects for the benefit of affected populations, including young people, particularly in the Far North region of the country; support for the social reintegration of former members of Boko Haram; support for the handling of refugees and displaced persons; and support for political initiatives within multilateral bodies.

183. Chad recounted the measures that had been taken by its authorities to combat Boko Haram, including the provision of military support to Cameroon, the Niger and Nigeria; it also stressed the need for the subregion and the international community to provide the necessary support to countries engaged in that effort.

184. Following the briefings by Cameroon and Chad, the Committee commended the two countries and expressed solidarity with them in their efforts to combat Boko Haram.

185. The Committee reiterated its concern about the threat posed by Boko Haram and stressed the need for all member States to help combat the terrorist group and to engage more in efforts aimed at achieving social stability in the subregion.

Recommendation:

186. The Committee encouraged the ECCAS secretariat to continue its efforts to hold a joint summit with ECOWAS with a view to developing a joint strategy to combat Boko Haram, in accordance with the decisions taken by the Heads of State at the extraordinary summit of COPAX held in Yaoundé in February 2015.

VIII. Piracy and maritime security

187. On 11 November 2015, the ECCAS secretariat had shared with the Committee a comprehensive report on the implementation of the resolutions of the Interministerial Conference on Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea and on the operationalization of the Interregional Coordination Centre for maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, the Regional Coordination Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa (CRESMAC), multinational coordination centres and maritime operations centres. The aims of the report were to:

- Make member States and partners aware of the need to uphold their voluntary commitments;
- Mobilize the international community to provide the necessary financial, logistical and technical support to complete the operationalization of the Interregional Coordination Centre, following its inauguration in September 2014, its launching and the development of concepts by an interim team.

188. The representative of the ECCAS secretariat presented the highlights of the report, including the process that had led to the above-mentioned interministerial conference and the measures taken to operationalize the Centre. He reported that the

interim team had not been able to complete its tasks during the allotted six-month period owing to technical constraints. Its tasks had included drafting terms of reference for the recruitment of staff, developing a budgetary framework and holding a validation meeting for relevant officials. The team had submitted its conclusions to the three subregional organizations in July 2015.

189. There had thus been substantial delays in operationalizing the Centre. The Yaoundé process, whose code of conduct would become binding in 2016, could be revived by holding a meeting of senior officials at the earliest opportunity. Significant progress had been made, including the strong growth of CRESMAC in Pointe-Noire, the designation of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, as the host of the Regional Centre for Maritime Security in West Africa (CRESMAO), and the opening of the Zone E Multinational Maritime Coordination Centre in Cotonou, Benin. However, multinational maritime coordination centres for Zones F and G in West Africa and Zone A (Angola, Congo and Democratic Republic of the Congo), which was merged with Zone B, in Central Africa, were yet to be opened.

190. The representative of the ECCAS secretariat welcomed the contribution of Cameroon to the operation of the Interregional Coordination Centre and the contribution of the Congo to the operation of CRESMAC.

191. The head of CRESMAC made an additional statement, stressing the urgency for CRESMAC to activate Zone A by holding a community meeting, and the importance of signing a technical agreement and adopting a security plan.

192. Member States had reaffirmed their commitment to implementing all the decisions taken and all ongoing projects relating to maritime security in their maritime space.

IX. Poaching in Central Africa

193. Gabon reminded the Committee of its continuing commitment, and that of Germany, to addressing the threat posed by poaching and illicit trafficking in fauna and flora. That commitment had resulted in the adoption on 30 July 2015 of a resolution entitled "Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife" (A/RES/69/314) by the United Nations General Assembly. That resolution — the first on the subject — established a direct link between the environmental, socioeconomic and security dimensions of poaching.

194. With regard to the environment, the resolution highlighted the damage caused by such trafficking on ecosystems, including fauna and flora protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. It stressed the need to strengthen international and regional cooperation so that effective action was taken to address both supply and demand. On the socioeconomic front, the resolution reaffirmed the impact of illicit trafficking on the living conditions of people, in particular those who made a living from tourism. It encouraged Member States to support the development of sustainable and alternative livelihoods for communities affected by illicit trafficking in wildlife and its adverse impacts, with the full engagement of the communities themselves. With regard to security, the resolution recognized that illicit trafficking was a form of transnational organized crime and thus represented a threat to the stability of many States.

195. The resolution called upon Member States, especially countries of origin, transit and destination, to increase international cooperation and coordination. It called on the United Nations to continue to support developing countries by strengthening their capacities. Lastly, the resolution encouraged Member States to take effective action to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

196. In accordance with the resolution, the United Nations Secretary-General would submit, before the end of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, the first annual report on the global status of poaching and the implementation of other recommendations contained in the resolution. He had also been requested to make proposals for future action, including consideration of the appointment of a special envoy to coordinate action to combat illicit trafficking.

197. The representative of Gabon put forward the following proposals: (i) take decisive steps at the regional level to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit trade in wild fauna and flora, including by strengthening national legislation for prevention, investigation and prosecution; (ii) make illicit trafficking and poaching involving organized criminal groups serious crimes; (iii) harmonize the judicial, legal and administrative regulations of Member States of the subregion to facilitate information-sharing and criminal prosecution of illicit trafficking and poaching; (iv) establish joint special units in Central Africa to combat illicit trafficking; (v) organize subregional workshops on the implementation of the recommendations of the resolution, with the assistance of ECCAS, UNOCA and civil society; (vi) conduct regular campaigns to raise awareness at the national, subregional and regional levels of the risks of the supply and transit of, and demand for, illicit wildlife products; (vii) organize a ministerial meeting of ECCAS to prepare an extraordinary summit which would embody the political will of States of the subregion to confront that scourge together.

198. The Congo noted that the African continent had developed a strategy on the topic following the International Conference on the Illegal Exploitation and Illicit Trade in African Wildlife Products, held in Brazzaville from 27 to 30 April 2015, and called for the coordinated implementation of the strategy and the above-mentioned resolution.

199. Chad noted that it was home to one of the largest parks in Africa, where the wildlife had fallen victim to poachers from neighbouring countries. Despite the establishment of a special unit, it had not been possible to stop that scourge. The representative of the Central African Republic noted the industrial nature of the phenomenon, which the Chad-Sudan-Central African Republic tripartite force had also not been able to eradicate. He suggested that ECCAS should make a list of protected species and classify national parks as regional heritage sites.

200. Cameroon noted its pioneering role and efforts in preserving wildlife and ecosystems in Central Africa, including through the Yaoundé Declaration of March 1999 and a number of bilateral and multilateral initiatives. It stressed the importance of the revival of the Organization for the Conservation of Wildlife in Africa, whose Council of Ministers held an extraordinary session from 15 to 17 June in Yaoundé.

X. Combating drug trafficking and transnational organized crime in Central Africa

201. The representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) noted that, owing to its geographical position near to both the Gulf of Guinea and the Sahel, Central Africa had over the years become an attractive region for criminal groups involved in drug trafficking, which was one of the most lucrative criminal activities.

202. Cocaine was trafficked from Latin America to Europe, the Middle East, India and North Africa. Cameroon and Nigeria were often cited as "African hubs" because of their geographical location, which provided traffickers with a transit point to countries in Europe and the Middle East through landlocked countries in Central Africa, with part of the journey made by air. Recently, 14 kilograms of cocaine had been seized at Douala Airport. In August 2014, police in Paraguay had seized 850 kilograms of cocaine hidden in bags of rice bound for the Congo. Such large seizures did not appear to have ever been made in the Congo, a country that could be used as a transit point.

203. Heroin from the Indian subcontinent and the Horn of Africa transited through the Middle East (Lebanon) and North Africa (Algeria, Morocco), West and Central Africa, and East Africa (Kenya, Ethiopia) to Europe and North America. Most of the drug mules arrested in Cameroon had confessed to being recruited by Nigerians.

204. The precursors used to manufacture methamphetamines in clandestine African laboratories were reported to come mainly from India, transiting through South Africa and East Africa, arriving in Nigeria, Cameroon or other West African countries after passing through certain Central African countries.

205. The representative of UNODC cited the illicit trafficking of precious metals and stones as one of the many other forms of transnational organized crime. Like many countries with considerable geological and mineral resources, the Central African Republic was affected by that kind of trafficking (cobalt, titanium, gold, diamonds), which was exacerbated by a climate of insecurity and the porous nature of its borders. Trafficking in diamonds was said to have reached a peak following the exclusion of the Central African Republic from the Kimberley Process and the closure of the regional diamond exchange.

206. The representative of UNODC also emphasized the close relationship between drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and terrorism, and called for those issues to be addressed in a holistic manner.

XI. Briefings by bodies with observer status in the Committee

207. Representatives of the various entities in the subregion gave the Committee brief overviews of their mandates and activities to promote peace and stability in Central Africa.

United Nations Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa

208. The Director of the United Nations Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa reviewed the situation of human rights and democracy in certain States in the subregion.

209. In Burundi, dozens of people, including members of the security forces and civilians across all political parties, had been killed or injured following months of violence.

210. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the human rights situation had been affected by political factors, with restrictions on democracy and violations of the freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly.

211. In the Republic of the Congo, the planned constitutional amendment and demonstrations by its opponents had led to human rights abuses.

212. In the Central African Republic, the conflict and the activities of the various actors involved in it had continued to affect the human rights situation. The current climate of impunity for the perpetrators of violence and the inability of victims to take their case to court had allowed the perpetrators to continue to commit serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

213. The Director of the Subregional Centre said that in 2015, in line with the six thematic priorities established for the 2014-2017 programme cycle, the Centre had been collaborating with its United Nations partners in all the countries under its purview.

214. To combat discrimination, especially discrimination based on race, gender or religion, and discrimination against marginalized populations, the Centre had continued to build capacities and to provide technical support to Governments to protect the rights of traditionally marginalized groups, such as women, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples. The Centre had continued to support the Government of Cameroon in its efforts to protect the rights of indigenous peoples. The Centre had organized a national workshop in Cameroon in July 2015 on women's participation in politics and on advocacy for the establishment of a quota for women in government.

215. As regards early warning and the protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity, the Centre had visited the Far North Region of Cameroon as part of a fact-finding mission of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Centre was maintaining its call for the inclusion of a civilian component in the Multinational Joint Task Force established to combat Boko Haram, with a human rights unit to ensure that human and gender rights were respected. In Gabon, the Centre had participated in a workshop on criminal justice and terrorism, organized by the United Nations in September 2015. It had stressed the need for zero impunity for human rights violations committed in the fight against terrorism.

216. The Centre had organized several activities related to human rights in development and in economic affairs, focusing on businesses and human rights and the right to land, water and housing. Those activities included a national workshop organized together with the International Organization of La Francophonie in September 2015 on the theme "Businesses and human rights in Cameroon"; a

follow-up visit to the hydroelectric power station at Lom Pangar with media professionals, in October 2015; and a consultation with businesses and governmental actors on the guiding principles of the United Nations relating to human rights and businesses, in Libreville.

217. Full compliance with the obligations contained in international instruments was essential for the enhancement of international human rights mechanisms and the progressive development of international human rights law and standards, especially with regard to improving the visibility and accessibility of international human rights mechanisms. In that connection, the Centre had organized a series of national consultations to promote the establishment of a national mechanism to draft reports and monitor the implementation of the recommendations of international and regional human rights treaty bodies, including one in the Republic of the Congo in June 2015, one in Sao Tome and Principe in August 2015, and one in Equatorial Guinea in September 2015.

218. The broadening of democracy, with a focus on public freedoms and the protection of human rights defenders, and the amendment of fundamental laws, lay at the heart of the political debate in many of the countries in the subregion. Constitutional reforms that led to the extension of presidential terms of office without a national consensus often resulted in political tension that jeopardized human rights and fundamental democratic rights. In order to support the countries of the subregion, the Centre had organized a number of activities, in collaboration with MINUSCA, UNOCA and the Government of the Central African Republic, including a brainstorming and lessons-learned workshop on the status and prospects of women's political involvement and participation in Cameroon, in July 2015, and a national workshop on the coverage of elections from a human rights perspective by Central African media professionals, in September 2015.

219. As regards the combating of impunity, the strengthening of accountability and the rule of law with a focus on human rights in the administration of justice, transitional justice, torture, detention and the death penalty, justice and the rule of law in Central Africa had undergone major changes that affected both the nature and quality of applicable law and jurisdictional procedures and institutions. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, combating impunity was still a challenge, although several major trials had resulted in the conviction of perpetrators of human rights violations. However, current due process rules were not fully compatible with international norms, leading the Centre to recommend legislative amendments to ensure that procedures were in place for appeals to higher courts. The Centre had organized a seminar on combating impunity, in September 2015, in conjunction with the Human Rights Division of MINUSCA.

220. The Director of the Centre welcomed the continued support of Cameroon to the Centre, and thanked the Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe for their support of the Centre's activities. He welcomed the good cooperation with international organizations, including ECCAS, the International Organization of La Francophonie and UNOCA, in building States' capacities to protect human rights.

221. The Centre suggested to the States members of the Committee that they should:

- Continue to meet their human rights and accountability commitments;

- Strengthen monitoring, warning and transparency mechanisms in electoral processes;
- Build capacity in the judiciary to combat impunity and corruption, prevent torture and ensure effective international remedies;
- Provide financial support to the Multinational Joint Task Force established to combat Boko Haram;
- Continue to provide financial support to the Centre to enable it to fulfil effectively the mandate it received from the States members of ECCAS and pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolutions 53/78, adopted on 5 December 1998, and 54/55, adopted on 1 December 1999.

222. Following the briefing by the Centre, the Republic of the Congo, referring to the incidents that had occurred during the pre-referendum process, said that the State had an obligation to maintain public order and to ensure that laws and regulations were followed. In the case of the Republic of the Congo, where freedom of expression was protected under the Constitution, freedoms had not been denied; on the contrary, they had been protected under the law.

223. The Central African Republic said that both States and armed groups had a responsibility to protect human rights, especially in conflict zones. It also emphasized the need to focus on conditions in prisons in the promotion of human rights.

224. The representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo said that contrary to the description in the Centre's report, and despite its young democracy, the Democratic Republic of the Congo was making constructive progress, with no restrictions on democracy or violations of freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, as proven by the following:

- The existence of more than 450 political parties;
- The opposition held 40 per cent of the seats in both the National Assembly and the Senate;
- Multiple television and radio broadcasters, many belonging to the opposition;
- Front pages of opposition newspapers carrying anti-government stories without interference.

225. As the body responsible for the administration of the country, however, the Government could not tolerate the incitement of young people to engage in the destruction of the economic fabric, violence and insurrection.

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA)

226. The representative of MINUSCA shared with the Committee the Mission's contribution to the post-crisis recovery process in the Central African Republic.

227. He reported that, since the last Committee meeting, MINUSCA, in carrying out the mandate entrusted to it by the United Nations Security Council, had continued to support the national authorities in order to bring the political transition to a successful conclusion, while making progress on key reforms for stabilizing the Central African Republic.

228. Regarding the electoral process, the new electoral timetable had been published by the national authorities in Bangui. It provided for the holding of a constitutional referendum on 13 December 2015, the first round of presidential and legislative elections on 27 December 2015, and the second round on 31 January 2016. The authorities had the entire international community's support for the successful holding and smooth conduct of those elections, which would lead to the establishment of an elected government, marking the end of the transitional period and the return to constitutional order in the Central African Republic.

229. MINUSCA was convinced that the establishment of an elected government would facilitate progress in different areas, such as security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and political dialogue and reconciliation. To succeed, the Central African Republic would need continued support from partners, including from the subregion as a whole and from member States individually.

230. The representative of the Mission congratulated both the national authorities for their efforts to organize the elections and the people of the Central African Republic for turning out in large numbers to register for the election. Over 90 per cent of potential voters had registered.

231. MINUSCA provided technical, logistical and security support to the national authorities.

232. The representative of MINUSCA said that the security situation in the Central African Republic remained fragile, as noted since 26 September in Bangui. MINUSCA continued to work alongside its partners of the Central African Republic to secure the country, and additional resources from the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire were on their way to Bangui to bolster the efforts of MINUSCA during the electoral cycle and the Pope's visit, scheduled for 29 and 30 November 2015.

233. Security sector reform was central to the mandate of MINUSCA and was a priority for the Central African Republic. A holistic approach was needed, with simultaneous reforms of the different pillars: armed forces, domestic security and justice; otherwise, gains would not be sustainable or lasting.

234. The representative of MINUSCA congratulated the Government of the Central African Republic for holding a round table on security, supported by the African Union, ECCAS and the United Nations. The round table should help to define strategic guidelines on security in the Central African Republic and to initiate a discussion on the tasks of each actor in the security apparatus, including the army, the police and the gendarmerie. The elected authorities could build on the conclusions of the round table.

235. The holding of elections and progress with security sector reform would facilitate the implementation of reforms that were crucial for consolidating stability in the Central African Republic and would also contribute to the protection of human rights, the establishment of State authority over the entire country, and the fight against impunity.

236. The representative of MINUSCA called on all participants to remain committed to working alongside their partners of the Central African Republic in order to seize that opportunity. He reiterated that the commitment of ECCAS and

States of the subregion was crucial, and that MINUSCA stood ready to assist the Central African Republic.

XII. Report by the secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States on institutional developments in subregional peace and security structures and mechanisms and on the development of strategic partnerships

237. The representative of the ECCAS secretariat explained that finalization of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX), which predated the establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, was still under way. The Government of Gabon had made a building available to the Central African Early Warning Mechanism (MARAC), which was now operational, and the defence and security committee had been holding regular meetings. The Central African multinational force was being operationalized. With regard to its own reform, the secretariat had prepared terms of reference that had been submitted to the current Chair of ECCAS.

238. ECCAS had established formal partnerships with the African Union, the United Nations and the European Union, and informal partnerships with Germany, the United States, France and Italy. It also had close working relationships with civil society organizations and parliamentarians.

XIII. Consideration of the financial situation of the Committee: implementation of the Libreville Declaration by member States

239. The secretariat distributed to Committee members a table on the status of contributions to the trust fund since its establishment (see annex). Only Angola was current with its contribution to the trust fund. Member States reaffirmed their commitment to make their annual contributions to the trust fund.

Recommendation:

240. The Committee urged member States to take the necessary measures to remain current with their financial obligations to the Committee and in keeping with the spirit of the Libreville Declaration of May 2009, including through gradual clearance over the period covering the next two Committee meetings, and by December 2016 at the latest. The Committee noted that the amount of annual contributions to the trust fund had been set at a minimum of US$ 10,000.

XIV. Venue and date of the next meeting

241. The Committee decided that the forty-second ministerial meeting would be held in Bangui, in the Central African Republic. The exact dates would be announced subsequently through diplomatic channels.

XV. Other matters

242. The Republic of the Congo proposed to reintroduce a specific thematic debate on the agenda of the Committee's meetings.

243. Angola suggested that the term of the Chair of the Committee should be extended from six to twelve months, to enable him to carry out a number of projects. Following a discussion, the Committee decided that the terms of the Chair and the entire Bureau of the Committee should remain at six months, to match the schedule of meetings, which were held twice a year.

Recommendation:

244. The Committee reiterated the need for a specific thematic debate to be included on the agenda of its future meetings. The topic would be chosen before each meeting by member States and communicated to the secretariat.

XVI. Adoption of the report of the forty-first ministerial meeting

245. The Committee adopted the present report on 26 November 2015 in Libreville, Gabon.

C. Expression of thanks

On behalf of the Committee, the following expression of thanks was read out by the Minister of Defence and Maritime Affairs of Sao Tome and Principe, Mr. Carlos Olimpio Stock:

"We, Ministers and members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, gathered on the occasion of the forty-first ministerial meeting, from 23 to 27 November 2015, in Libreville Gabon,

Reaffirm our attachment to the ideals of peace, security and stability that are so necessary for our respective peoples and for the socioeconomic development of our subregion;

Welcome the efforts made by our countries, individually and collectively, to promote peace, security, stability and development;

Welcome the atmosphere of conviviality, brotherhood and mutual trust which has prevailed throughout our work;

Express our sincere thanks and our profound gratitude to His Excellency Mr Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of the Republic of Gabon, and to the Government and people of Gabon, for the warm and fraternal welcome we have received during our stay in Gabon."

Libreville, 26 November 2015

Annex 1: Status of implementation of the recommendations of the fortieth meeting of the Committee		
Recommendations	Body responsible	Status
The Committee secretariat should make the geopolitical review prepared by ECCAS available to the member States at least two weeks in advance of the ministerial meetings in order to collect their comments.	ECCAS/secretariat	Implemented (geopolitical review distributed on 11 November).
The geopolitical review should be presented in the traditional format of a country-by-country analytical study.	ECCAS	Implemented.
ECCAS should take the necessary measures to ensure that it is represented at the appropriate level at the ministerial meeting, so that decisions adopted following the deliberations would have the full approval of ECCAS.	ECCAS	Implemented. The ECCAS secretariat was present at the opening of the forty-first ministerial meeting.
All States that had not yet done so should ratify the Kinshasa Convention as soon as possible, so that it could enter into force.	Member States	According to the United Nations, no instrument of ratification had been deposited since 5 June 2015.
All States that had not yet done so should sign the Arms Trade Treaty.	Member States	The Central African Republic acceded to the Treaty on 7 October 2015 (expected to enter into force in January 2016).
In line with the recommendation made at the Brazzaville Conference, the member States should introduce in the United Nations General Assembly the African strategy adopted in Brazzaville, so that it could be taken into account in the United Nations global strategy against this scourge.	Member States	Ongoing.
The United Nations General Assembly should adopt the draft resolution on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife.	Member States	Implemented. Resolution adopted on 30 July 2015 (A/RES/69/314).
Presentations should be less consensual with deeper and more detailed analysis.	Bodies with observer status in the Committee	Ongoing.
Member States should take the necessary measures to ensure that they are current with their financial commitments to the Committee, in accordance with the spirit of the Libreville Declaration.	Member States/secretariat	Since 5 June 2015, Angola had been the sole contributor, paying US$ 40,000 into the trust fund.
The United Nations Security Council should be mobilized to support the proposals contained in the UNOCA strategic review.	Angola and Chad, in their capacity as non-permanent members of the Security Council	Implemented. Review and extension of the UNOCA mandate until 2018 by the Security Council on 21 July 2015 pursuant to an exchange of letters between the United Nations Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council.
The proposals contained in the UNOCA strategic review in the United Nations General Assembly (Fifth Committee) should be supported.	Member States	Ongoing.

Recommendations of the thirty-ninth meeting of the Committee
The Committee decided that the following recommendations, made at its thirty-eighth meeting, should be carried forward: (1) Workshops should be held at future Committee meetings to enhance understanding of the adaptation and harmonization of member States' national legislation on all forms of crime affecting the subregion; (2) The Committee secretariat should make the geopolitical review prepared by ECCAS available to member States at least two weeks before the ministerial meetings, in order to be able to obtain their feedback; (3) Member States that had not yet done so should ratify the Kinshasa Convention; (4) Further discussions should be held on all armed groups operating in the subregion, including LRA; (5) The implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) should be discussed at future meetings; (6) Member States signatories that had not yet done so should provide funding for the activities of the Regional Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa (CRESMAC), in the amounts approved by the Council of Ministers of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX); (7) Member States should pursue their efforts for the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) on women and peace and security and of General Assembly resolution 65/69 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. States were also encouraged to familiarize themselves with the recommendations made at the workshop on women's participation in politics and elections in Central Africa. The workshop had been organized jointly by ECCAS and UNOCA, with the participation of the United Nations Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the International Organization of la Francophonie, from 21 to 23 October 2014 in Douala, Cameroon. In addition to the specific recommendations made by participants (members of legislative bodies and of civil society) and directed in particular to member States and international organizations, a Central African women's platform for the promotion of political participation had been established.
The Committee unanimously agreed to return to the traditional format of the geopolitical and security review prepared by ECCAS.
The Committee designated the ECCAS secretariat as the focal point for support for victims of terrorist acts.
The Committee reiterated its recommendations regarding the sixth biennial meeting of States to consider the Programme of Action, to be held in 2016, and the open-ended meeting of governmental experts, to be held from 1 to 5 June 2015 under the auspices of the United Nations. In that regard, the Committee reaffirmed the principle of holding a preparatory meeting in late 2015 or early 2016 to prepare the Central African countries for the sixth biennial meeting.
The Committee recommended that member States should politically endorse and take ownership of the road map for counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa. It also recommended that UNOCA, the regional coordination mechanism for counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and ECCAS should be mandated to conduct a methodical and comprehensive study of relevant threats in the subregion and, based on their findings, to propose ways of eradicating those threats, for presentation at the next meeting of the Committee.
At the suggestion of the Congo, the Committee recommended that ECCAS, in conjunction with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC), should create the conditions for a strategic partnership with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for the effective implementation of the provisions of IMO resolution A.1069 (28) of 29 November 2013 relating to the establishment of an IMO trust fund for combating maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea.
The Committee called on the Centre to organize a technical meeting on security and control of arms trafficking at sea.
The Committee recommended that security efforts in the Gulf of Guinea should incorporate a land-sea perspective with a view to expanding the agenda of the Interregional Coordination Centre.
The Committee recommended that the framework for discussions on armed groups should be extended to include all of Africa.
The Committee also recommended that consideration should be given to increasing the financial and material resources available to UNOCA in view of the expansion of its activities.
The Committee recommended that the issue of the threat to peace, security and stability in Central Africa posed by the terrorist activities of Boko Haram should also be included on the agenda of the next Summit of Heads of State and Government of ECCAS, with a presentation by the United Nations regional coordinator for counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa.
The Committee recalled the relevance of the letter addressed to the Secretary-General in 2013 (A/68/553), the annex to which contained the following recommendations: - Appointment of a Special Representative or Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the protection of fauna and flora, with a mandate to mobilize the international community to combat poaching; - Submission to the General Assembly of a resolution on poaching, highlighting its environmental, economic and security impacts; - Convening of an international conference on the subject, to be hosted by Gabon; - Establishment of a coordination and communication network for the enforcement of laws to combat poaching and illicit trafficking in wildlife in general, and rhinoceroses and elephants in particular; - Strengthening of cross-border cooperation, in accordance with international conventions pertaining to the protection of endangered species of wild fauna, to address criminal activities that facilitate the supply and marketing of products derived from poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking; - Greater support, through ECCAS, for the Central African Protected Area Network (RAPAC) to ensure continued participation by that specialized subregional institution in anti-poaching efforts.
The Committee reiterated the recommendations it had made on the basis of the request by the delegation of the Congo for an in-depth evaluation of the situation of women throughout the subregion. To that end, the Committee requested UN-Women to prepare a detailed report on the status of implementation in Central Africa of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) on women and peace and security. The report should indicate progress made and any challenges and/or difficulties encountered by countries and subregional entities. It should also recommend national and regional actions for effectively implementing those resolutions in all Central African countries.
The Committee recommended that, at the next meeting, presentations on climate change and its impact on peace and stability in Africa should be given by each State and by the ECCAS secretariat. The Committee also suggested that the secretariat should draft a concept note on the topic.
The Committee recommended that the secretariat and the incoming Chair should remind the member States in writing of their financial commitments regarding the implementation of the May 2009 Libreville Declaration.

Annex 2. Status of contributions to the trust fund since its establishment		
Year	**Member States (in alphabetical order)**	**Amount in United States dollars**
1998	Germany	48996
1997	Cyprus	1000
1998	Ireland	15000
1998	Italy	30000
1996	Japan	600000
1998	Norway	30355.36
1998	Portugal	10000
2015	Angola	40000
2011	Angola	10000
2010	Angola	10000
2011	The Congo	10961.08
2010	The Congo	9299.39
1997	Gabon	1932
2012	Gabon	30000
1997	Chad	1742.09
2002	Czech Republic	15000
1998	United Kingdom	35000
2011	Sao Tome and Principe	25273
1999	Sweden	10000
	Total	**934,558.92**

Annex 3

Libreville Declaration on the adoption and implementation of the regional strategy and plan of action for combating terrorism and the trafficking in small arms and light weapons in Central Africa

We, Ministers for Foreign Affairs and heads of delegations of States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, gathered in Libreville, Gabon, from 23 to 27 November 2015:

Deeply concerned by the upsurge in acts perpetrated in Cameroon and Chad by the terrorist group Boko Haram, today supposedly referred to as Islamic State in West Africa, and by the risks faced by other member States;

Aware of the need for joint, collaborative, effective and long-lasting action to address the terrorist threat in Central Africa;

Recalling the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted in 2006;

Condemn in the strongest possible terms the recurrent and deadly attacks perpetrated by this amorphous group and by other terrorist groups identified in the subregion, including the Lord's Resistance Army;

Reaffirm our attachment to the Declaration of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, adopted in Bujumbura in December 2014, in support of Cameroon;

Decide to adopt and endorse the regional strategy and action plan for combating terrorism and the trafficking in small arms and light weapons in Central Africa, in accordance with the wishes expressed at the thirty-third meeting of the Committee, held in Bangui in December 2011;

Encourage ECCAS and international partners, including the United Nations, to support the implementation of the strategy and its action plan;

Decide also to conduct a regular evaluation of the strategy and its action plan at meetings of the Committee.

Libreville, 26 November 2015

Libreville Declaration on the operationalization of the Interregional Coordination Centre for Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea

We, States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, gathered in Libreville, Gabon, from 23 to 27 November 2015 at the forty-first ministerial meeting of the Committee,

1.1. Taking into consideration the initiatives of the regional economic communities and the Commission of the Gulf of Guinea (CGG), namely the protocol to protect vital maritime interests of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), adopted in Kinshasa on 24 October 2009; the integrated maritime strategy of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), adopted in Yamoussoukro on 29 March 2014; and the CGG integrated maritime strategy, adopted in Malabo on 10 August 2013;

1.2. Recalling United Nations Security Council resolution 2039 of 29 February 2012, which urges ECOWAS, ECCAS and CGG to work together to develop a regional strategy to counter the threat of piracy, armed robbery and other criminal activities at sea, in cooperation with the African Union (AU);

1.3. Recalling the decisions of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of ECCAS, of ECOWAS and of CGG on maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, held on 25 June 2013 in Yaoundé;

1.4. Considering the additional protocol to the memorandum of understanding concluded by ECCAS, ECOWAS and CGG on maritime safety and security in Central Africa and West Africa on the organization and functioning of the Interregional Coordination Centre (ICC) for the implementation of the regional strategy to protect the maritime interests of the States concerned, adopted on 5 June 2014 in Yaoundé;

1.5. Aware of the negative impact of maritime piracy, armed robbery and other criminal acts committed in the common maritime space on sustainable development in these regions;

1.6. Reaffirming the central role of ICC in the implementation of the regional strategy to counter piracy and criminal acts committed in the maritime space of Central Africa and West Africa;

1.7. Welcoming the efforts made by the Government of Cameroon and the support of technical and financial partners for the establishment and functioning of ICC;

1.8. Wishing to work together to launch ICC;

2. Declare as follows:

2.1. We undertake unreservedly to make every effort to mobilize adequate financial, human and logistical resources to enable the optimal and timely roll-out of ICC;

2.2. We urge member States to support ECCAS in the implementation of the regional strategy to counter maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and in the efficient roll-out of ICC;

2.3. We request ECCAS to:

- Continue to develop and operationalize coordination mechanisms that would enable the various stakeholders (ICC, CRESMAC, the Multinational Maritime Coordination Centre, COM) to take effective action against all maritime threats;
- Strengthen cooperation with ECOWAS and CGG for more coordinated action;
- Continue lobbying international partners to support ICC and all initiatives to enhance this regional cooperation;

2.4. We request the United Nations to support the effective operationalization of ICC;

2.5. We take note of the proposal of Cameroon to organize and host, in cooperation with ECCAS, the annual meeting of senior officials of ICC from 12 to 14 January 2016 in Yaoundé;

2.6. We remain seized of the matter and request ECCAS to provide us with an update on the situation at the forty-second ministerial meeting of the Advisory Committee.

Libreville, 26 November 2015

Libreville Declaration on combating poaching in Central Africa

We, Ministers of States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, gathered in Libreville, Gabon, from 23 to 27 November 2015, at the forty-first ministerial meeting of the Committee:

1.1. Concerned by the extent of poaching and illicit trade in wildlife and by its adverse effects on the environment, the economy and security;

1.2. Deeply concerned by the threat of extinction, as a result of poaching, of protected species of flora and fauna;

1.3. Taking into consideration the African Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa, adopted in June 2015;

1.4. Taking into consideration the resolution on the conservation and sustainable development of Central African forest ecosystems;

1.5. Taking into consideration the cooperation agreement on the establishment of Sangha Tri-National, entered into by the Governments of Cameroon, the Central African Republic and the Congo;

1.6. Taking into consideration the cooperation agreement on the establishment of the Tri-National Dja-Odzala-Minkébé (TRIDOM) project, entered into by the Governments of Cameroon, the Congo and Gabon on 4 February 2005;

1.7. Taking into account United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/69/314 of 30 July 2015 entitled "Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife";

1.8. Taking into account the Extreme Emergency Anti-Poaching Plan (PEXULAB) adopted on 23 March 2013 in Yaoundé at the emergency meeting of ECCAS ministers for foreign affairs and cooperation, integration, defence and security, and wildlife protection;

1.9. Welcoming the regional legal instruments, including the ECCAS protocol relating to the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX), the ECCAS Non-Aggression Pact, the Convention on Cooperation and Mutual Legal Assistance adopted by the States members of ECCAS, and the Convention on Mutual Assistance, which provide a regional framework for cooperation in peace and security matters;

1.10. Welcoming also the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly on 30 July 2015 of a landmark resolution on tackling poaching and illicit trafficking in wildlife;

1.11. Aware of the need to establish regional mechanisms specifically dedicated to combating wildlife- and forest-related crime and responsible for developing prosecution and law enforcement strategies and policies in this matter in the respective member States;

1.12. Aware that poaching is a major threat to fauna and flora and a real national security challenge for all States of the Central African subregion;

1.13. Condemning the trafficking in protected species, which poses a serious threat to the security of States;

2. Declare as follows:

2.1. We undertake unreservedly to work together to combat poaching in the subregion;

2.2. We recommend that all member States be mobilized for coordinated action to combat poaching effectively;

2.3. We call for enhanced bilateral and regional cooperation to facilitate the exchange of information regarding the movements of poachers in order to better coordinate the response;

2.4. We urge member States and partners to revive the Organization for the Conservation of Wildlife in Africa so that it is better equipped and able to play its full part in combating poaching;

2.5. We call upon the international community to support the revival of the Organization;

2.6. We call upon the international community and technical and financial partners to mobilize and make available additional funding to States to support ECCAS and member countries involved in the implementation of the Extreme Emergency Anti-Poaching Plan (PEXULAB);

2.7. We remain seized of the matter and request ECCAS to provide us with an update on the situation at the forty-second ministerial meeting of the Advisory Committee;

2.8. We call upon the international community to increase its financial, material and technical support to States in the subregion in order to strengthen their capacity to combat this scourge;

2.9. We request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) to include this matter in his biannual report to the United Nations Security Council.

Libreville, 26 November 2015

Annex 4 — List of participants

ANGOLA

	NAME	POSITION	
	H.E. Mr. Georges Rebelo Pinto **Chikoti**	Minister for Foreign Affairs	
	H.E. Mr. Joaquim Dos Espirito **Santo**	Ambassador, Head of the Africa, Middle East and Regional Organizations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
	H.E. Mr. Diakenga Serao **Toko**	Ambassador of Angola to Gabon	
	Mr. Alberto **Cassonga Cabongo**	Minister Counsellor, Diplomatic Mission of Angola to the Democratic Republic of the Congo	
	Mr. Virgilio Antonio **Zulumongo**	Adviser, Africa, Middle East and Regional Organizations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
	Mr. Manuel Vieira **da Fonseca**	Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Angola to the United Nations	
	Ms. Sayonara Joaline Sardinha **Mualubambo**	Technician, Africa, Middle East and Regional Organizations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
	Mr. Joseph **Matingou**	Senior Technician, Department of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
	Mr. Francisco **Cardoso**	Representative of the Ministry of the Interior	
	Mr. Gilberto **Dos Santos**	Counsellor, Embassy of Angola to Gabon	
	Mr. Martinho **Nzau Sacama**	Embassy of Angola to Gabon	
	Mr. Antonio Domingos **Ngola**	First Secretary, Embassy of Angola	

BURUNDI

	NAME	POSITION	
	H.E. Mr. Alain Aimé **Nyamitwe**	Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation	
	Colonel Tharcisse **Rusuguru**	Cooperation Advisor, Permanent Secretariat of the Ministry of Defence and Veterans' Affairs	
	Mr. Jean Claude **Kanene**	Director of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation	

CAMEROON

	NAME	POSITION	
	H.E. Mr. Samuel **Mvondo Ayolo**	Ambassador of Cameroon to Gabon and to Sao Tome and Principe	
	Ms. Anne Chantal **Nama**	Director, United Nations, and Decentralized Cooperation Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
	Mr. Abraham Bernard **Onguene**	Head, Rest of the World Division at Headquarters, Ministry of Defence	

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

	NAME	POSITION	
	Mr. Cherubin **Mologbama**	Ambassador, Cabinet Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Integration and Francophonie	
	Ms. Jeanne-Marie Leiticia **Boukoro Amphy-Wang**	Ambassador, Diplomatic Adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Integration and Francophonie	
	Col. Alfred **Service**	Head of Mission, Defence and Security	

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

	NAME	POSITION	
	H.E. Mr. Jean-Claude **Gakosso**	M...ister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation	
	H.E. Mr. Pierre **Nzila**	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Congo to Gabon	
	H.E. Mr. Raymond Serge **Balé**	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Congo to the United Nations in New York	
	Ms. Chantal Maryse **Itoua-Apoyolo**	Deputy Secretary-General, Head of the Department of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation	

	Mr. Gabriel **Angaba**	Director of External Security, Office of the President of the Republic	
	Mr. François **Nde**	Security Adviser, Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization	
	Mr. Aurélien Bruno **Samba Malonga**	Army, Gendarmerie and Human Resources Adviser, Ministry of National Defence	
	Mr. Aimé Charles **Mindou**	Maritime Affairs Adviser, Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation	
	Mr. Bavoun **Mollet**	Director of Cooperation, Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Involvement of Women in Development	
	Mr. Pierre Felix **Kimbadi**	Head of the Subregional Integration Division in the Africa Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation	
	Mr. Brice Nazaire **Ellenga Hibara**	Attaché, Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation	

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

	NAME	POSITION	
	H.E. Mr. Raymond **Tshibanda Ntunga Mulongo**	Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Francophonie	
	Mr. Pierre **Tshiamala Tshingombe**	Adviser to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Francophonie	
	Mr. Floribert **Kabalu Milandu**	Africa Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Francophonie	
	Mr. Philippe **Mayele Zengabau**	Diplomat, Embassy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Libreville	
	Mr. Jean Paulin **Makasi**		
	Mr. Jean Claude **Masokwe**		

GABON

	NAME	POSITION	
	H.E. Mr. Emmanuel **Issoze Ngondet**	Minister of State, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Francophonie and Regional Integration	
	H.E. Mr. Isidore Calixte **Nsie Edang**	Minister-Delegate for Foreign Affairs, Francophonie and Regional Integration	
	H.E. Mr. Mireille **Nzenze**	Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Francophonie and Regional Integration	
	H.E. Mr. Arcade **Mouendou**	Director, Office of the Minister-Delegate	
	H.E. Mr. Regis Michel **Onanga Ndiaye**	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Gabon Senegal	
	Gen. Pierre **Rizogo Rousselot**	Army General	
	H.E. Mr. Theo Sidoine **Mouissi Mickele**	Ambassador of Gabon, Deputy Secretary-General	
	H.E. Mr. Alfred **Moungara Moussotsi**	Ambassador, Director General of Foreign Affairs	
	H.E. Mr. Edmond Basile **Lindoughou**	Ambassador, Director General of International Legal Affairs	
	H.E. Mr. Landry **Mboumba**	Ambassador, Director of International Organizations	
	H.E. Mr. **Nguiend-Mickolo**	Ambassador, Director of American Affairs	
	Ms. Bernice **Abegue Owono**	Chief of the United Nations Division	
	Ms. Brunelle **Koumbou**	Chief of the African Union and Other Organizations Division	
	Gen. Victor **Mouanga A'Ateba**	Adviser to the Minister of the Interior	
	Mr. William R. **Nyama**	Political Adviser	
	Lieut. Col. Marcel **Mayimba Mangundu**	Adviser, General Directorate for Documentation and Immigration	
	Mr. Eugene Aimé **Lemami**	Senior Police Sergeant, General Directorate for Documentation and Immigration	

	Mr. Brice **Leyeghe Bununu**	Police Lieutenant, General Directorate for Documentation and Immigration	
	Mr. Jean Stéphane **Ndoumou**	Senior Police Sergeant, General Directorate for Documentation and Immigration	
	Mr. Aimé **Bibang Bi Mba**	Deputy Director-General for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Francophonie and Regional Integration	
	Mr. Alain **Ndong Okde**	General Directorate for Organization and Personnel National Police Forces	

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

	NAME	POSITION	
	Mr. Luis Asumu **Mba Medja**	Diplomatic Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
	Mr. Santiago **Mba Sima Engonga**	Division Chief for the Armed Forces General Staff, Ministry of Defence	
	Mr. Micha Andeme **Bienvenido Ndong**	Diplomatic Official	

RWANDA

	NAME	POSITION	
	H.E. Mr. Mussa Fazil **Harerimana**	Minister of Internal Security	
	Mr. Désiré **Nyaruhirira**	Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation	
	Mr. Jean Damascène **Rudasingwa**	Director, Office of the President	
	Mr. Wilson **Rwigamba**	Counsellor, Embassy of Rwanda in the Republic of the Congo	

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

	NAME	POSITION	
	H.E. Mr. Carlos Olimpio **Stock**	Minister of Defence and Maritime Affairs	
	Mr. Urbino José **Botelho Gonçalves**	Ambassador, Director of Foreign Policy	
	Mr. Alexandre **de Sousa Pontes Segundo**	Director, Office of the Chief of General Staff	
	Mr. Amawry **Nobre Dos Ramos**	Third Diplomatic Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	

CHAD

	NAME	POSITION	
	Mr. Djevet **Dassidy**	Deputy Secretary-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and African Integration	
	Mr. Ratebaye **Tordeta**	Director General of Legal Affairs and Litigation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and African Integration	
	General Abakar **Mahamat Nil**	Military Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and African Integration	

SPECIAL GUEST

	NAME	POSITION	
	Prof. Wullson **Mvomo Ela**	Research Specialist No. 1 General Delegation for National Security, Director of the International School of Security Forces (EIFORCES) research centre/regional coordinator for questions related to combating terrorism and the proliferation of weapons in Central Africa	

ECCAS – LIBREVILLE

	NAME	POSITION	
	H.E. Mr. Ahmad **Allam-Mi**	Secretary-General	
	Gen. **Garcia**	Deputy Secretary-General, Department for Human Integration, Peace, Security and Stability	

	Ms. Achta **Ahmed Sene**	Special Assistant to the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX)	
	Mr. Daniel Pascal **Elono**	Chief, Central African Early Warning Mechanism (MARAC)/ECCAS	
	Mr. F.X. **Moreau**	Military Adviser ECCAS	
	Mr. Xavier **Maurange**	Embassy of France, Maritime Security Adviser	
	Mr. Missak **Kasongo Muzeu**	ECCAS Libreville	

CENTRAL AFRICAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY COMMUNITY (CEMAC) — LIBREVILLE — BANGUI

	NAME	POSITION	
	H.E. Mr. Pierre **Moussa**	Chairman of the CEMAC Commission	
	Mr. Simon **Djiembi Mouelly**	Representative of the CEMAC Commission for Gabon	

AFRICAN UNION-BANGUI

	NAME	POSITION	
	General Jean-Marie Michel **Mokoko**	Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and Head of the African Union Mission for the Central African Republic and Central Africa	
	Colonel Major Banagoun **Zan**	Military Adviser, African Union Mission for the Central African Republic and Central Africa	

UNITED NATIONS SUBREGIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY IN CENTRAL AFRICA — YAOUNDE

	NAME	POSITION	
	Mr. Agbessi **Ahowanou**	Representative/Regional Director, United Nations Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa — Yaoundé	
	Ms. Dorothée **Ndoh Onguene**	Programme Manager, United Nations Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa	

	Ms. Taiyou **Tchounzin Njende**	Programme Assistant, United Nations Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa	

MINUSCA — BANGUI

	NAME	POSITION	
	Mr. Couthino **Sancho**	Senior Political Adviser	

UNREC — LOME

	NAME	POSITION	
	Ms. Olatokunbo **Ige**	Regional Director	

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC) – DAKAR-LIBREVILLE

	NAME	POSITION	
	Ms. Veronic **Wright**	Senior Legal Adviser and Head of the Justice Section	
	Mr. Maurice **Jeunet**	Adviser on countering money laundering and the financing of terrorism	

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS – NEW YORK

	NAME	POSITION	
	Mr. Qais **Sultan**	Political Adviser	

UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL OFFICE FOR CENTRAL AFRICA (UNOCA) — UNITED NATIONS STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SECURITY QUESTIONS IN CENTRAL AFRICA (UNSAC) SECRETARIAT

	NAME	POSITION	
	H.E. Mr. Abdoulaye **Bathily**	Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Head of UNOCA	
	Mr. Anatole **Ayissi**	Chief of Staff of the Special Representative	
	Mr. Karna **Soro**	Head of the Political Affairs Section	
	Mr. Vasyl **Sydorenko**	Chief, Mission Support	
	Colonel Cheikh Tidiane **Mbodji**	Military Adviser	
	Ms. Edith **Oyulu**	Senior Political Adviser	

	Mr. Norbert **Ouendji**	Public Information Officer, UNOCA	
	Mr. Boris **Tchoumavi**	Special Assistant to the Special Representative of UNOCA	
	Mr. Youssef **Jai**	Political Adviser	
	Mr. James **Aji**	Political Adviser	
	Mr. Ludovico **Capito**	Chief of Security	
	Ms. Anta **Gamby**	Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Staff	
	Ms. Ablavi **Ayeh**	Administrative Assistant, Department of Political Affairs	
	Ms Axelle **Dzikongo**	Administrative Assistant, Public Information	
	Ms. Marjoleine **Baloubiyembe**	Information Technology Assistant	
	Mr. Igor **Ella**	Telecommunications Assistant	
	Mr. Jerry **Bi Bibang**	Public Information Assistant	
	Ms. Amédée Eugénie **Minfoume**	Intern at UNOCA	
	Mr. Honore **Handi**	Logistics Specialist	
	Mr. Franck Elvis **Wana**	Driver at UNOCA	
	Mr. Yannick Lilian **Bellinga**	Driver at UNOCA	